

EXPRESS MAIL NO. EL 872037735 US

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Reissue Patent Application:

Applicants : Jeffrey P. Wright and Steven F. Schicht
Assignee : Micron Technology, Inc.
Filed : February 14, 2002
For : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR GENERATING A PULSE
Docket No. : 500024.02

Corresponding Issued U.S. Patent:

Patent No. : 6,026,496
Issued: : February 15, 2000
Application No. : 09/001,738
Filing Date : December 31, 1997
Examiner : Dennis M. Butler
Art Unit : 2787

BOX REISSUE
Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, DC 5931

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please accept the request for a reissue of U.S. Patent No. 6,026,496, filed herewith. Prior to conducting the examination of the reissue claims, please amend the reissue application as follows:

Please add the following new claims 53-72:

100554-01402
- 53. A method for generating a pulse signal responsive to a trigger signal transitioning from a first state to a second state, the method comprising:

applying the trigger signal to a passgate having an output node at which the pulse signal is provided;

enabling the passgate for a period of time measured from the trigger signal transitioning from the first state to the second state;

disabling the passgate after the period of time elapses; and

coupling the output node to ground in response to the period of time elapsing.

54. The method of claim 53 wherein enabling the passgate for a period of time comprises propagating the transition of the trigger signal through a delay for use as a disabling signal for the passgate.

55. The method of claim 54 wherein disabling the passgate and coupling the output node are both responsive to the disabling signal.

56. The method of claim 54 wherein propagating the transition of the trigger signal through the delay comprises detecting the transition of the trigger signal from the first state to the second state at the output node of the passgate.

57. The method of claim 53 wherein the first state comprises a logic LOW state and the second state comprises a logic HIGH state.

58. A method for generating a pulse responsive to a trigger signal transitioning from a first state to a second state, the method comprising:

transferring the trigger signal from an input node to an output node;

propagating the trigger signal through a delay circuit; and

in response to the trigger signal propagating through the delay circuit, blocking the trigger signal from the input node to the output node and discharging the output node.

59. The method of claim 58 wherein transferring the trigger signal comprises activating a passgate coupling the input and output nodes.

60. The method of claim 59 wherein blocking the trigger signal from the input node to the output node comprises deactivating the passgate.

61. The method of claim 58 wherein discharging the output node comprises coupling the output node to ground.

62. The method of claim 58, further comprising precharging the output node to a voltage level representative of the second state.

63. A method for generating a pulse responsive to a trigger signal applied to an input node transitioning from a first state to a second state, the method comprising:

coupling the input node to an output node at which the pulse is provided for a period of time in response to the transition of the trigger signal from the first state to the second state;

decoupling the input node from the output node after the period of time has elapsed; and

discharging the output node to a voltage level representative of the first state.

64. The method of claim 63 wherein coupling and decoupling comprises activating and deactivating a transfer gate coupled between the input and output nodes, respectively.

65. The method of claim 64 wherein coupling the input node to an output node for a period of time comprises measuring the time period from a transition of the output signal of the transfer gate from the first state to the second state.

66. The method of claim 64 wherein coupling the input node to an output node for a period of time comprises measuring the time period from the transition of the trigger signal from the first state to the second state.

67. The method of claim 63 wherein discharging the output node to a voltage level representative of the first state comprises coupling the output node to ground in response to the period of time elapsing.

68. A method for generating a pulse responsive to a trigger signal applied to an input node transitioning from a first state to a second state, the method comprising:

coupling an input node at which the trigger signal is applied to an output node at which the pulse is provided through a transfer gate;

generating a deactivation signal from the trigger signal delayed by a delay time to deactivate the transfer gate;

deactivating the transfer gate in response to the generation of the deactivation signal to decouple the input node from the output node; and

coupling the output node to ground to change the voltage level of the output node to a voltage representative of the second state.

69. The method of claim 68 wherein generating the deactivation signal comprises measuring the delay time with respect to a transition of the pulse provided at the output node.

70. The method of claim 68 wherein generating the deactivation signal comprises measuring the delay time with respect to the transition of the trigger signal at the input node.

71. The method of claim 68 wherein coupling the output node to ground comprises activating a switch coupling the output node to ground in response to the generation of the deactivation signal.

72. The method of claim 68, further comprising precharging the input node to a voltage level representative of the first state prior to the transition of the trigger signal from the first state to the second state. - -

REMARKS

Consideration of this reissue application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Applicants are requesting reissue on the basis that the '496 patent is, through error without any deceptive intention, deemed wholly or partially inoperative by reason of the patentee claiming less than he had a right to claim in the '496 patent. For example, claim 43 of the '496 patent is limited to a method that includes a passgate. However, the applicants have the right to claim that other means may be used in the method for generating a pulse. The assignee offers to surrender the '496 patent once the Examiner has indicated the allowability of all claims associated with this reissue application. The assignee is requesting a reissue of the '496 patent for the invention as disclosed in the '496 patent and claimed in issued claims 1-52 and new claims 53-72.

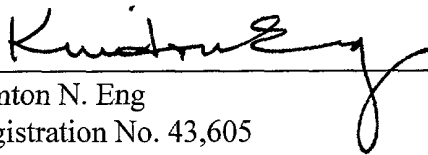
No new matter has been introduced into this application for reissue.

Applicants believe claims 1-72 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action.

If there are any matters that can be handled in a telephone conversation, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Mr. Eng at (206) 903-8718.

Respectfully submitted,

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